

Selworthy Woods



This walk displays the best that Exmoor has to offer, from wooded hillsides and combes to spacious open hilltops with brightly coloured heath and wide views of Porlock Vale, the moors and the coast.



Holnicote Estate

Most of the present Holnicote Estate was given to National Trust by Sir Richard Acland in 1944. The estate was established through the marriage of Sir Thomas Acland 7th Baronet to local heiress Elizabeth Dyke in 1745. Its early interest to the Aclands was as a sporting estate, particularly for stag hunting, which has now been discontinued on National Trust property.

Selworthy Woods

The woodlands were created from fields in the 19th century by the 10th Baronet Acland as a series of plantations in celebration of the birth of his nine children. In all he planted over a million trees on the hillside, laying out over 40 miles of footpaths and rides between them. Near Selworthy was a mixture of oak, chestnut, Scots pine and silver fir. Above Bossington was an unusually large plantation of holm oak.

Selworthy Green

The Green was designed for the 10th Baronet Acland in 1828 as housing for retired pensioners on his estate. The cottages were former farmhouses redesigned in the style of John Nash. In return for their accommodation, the pensioners maintained the paths in the surrounding woodland. The Baronet, Sir Thomas Acland, was fond of walking and regularly walked these paths with his family

after church on Sundays. The pensioners donned scarlet clocks as the family walked through the village from Holnicote House.

Springs [SS 915468](#) + [SS 904474](#)

Within the woods are two springs marked with signs. Sometimes referred to as St Agnes' Fountain and St Catherine's Well, they may have been used anciently as holy wells, originally dedicated to pagan spirits and later to female saints, to whom offerings were made for health or happiness. However, the former may have been named after the birth in 1822 of Agnes, daughter of the 10th Baronet.

EXMOOR NATIONAL PARK

Exmoor became Britain's eighth National Park in 1954 and these walks were designed to celebrate its Golden Anniversary. The public were invited to propose their favourite walks as part of the series and this walk is based on a walk proposed by Brian Atkin.

The National Park covers 267 square miles of Somerset and Devon. It is a landscape of great variety: from rugged, towering cliffs to gently rounded hills, wooded valleys, colourful heaths, wild grass moors and farming hamlets and it is home to nearly 11,000 people.

For further information contact Exmoor National Park Dulverton Visitor Centre: Tel 01398 32384 | E-mail: DulvertonVC@exmoor-nationalpark.gov.uk Website: www.exmoor-nationalpark.gov.uk

MAP

Scale 1:25000 SHEET No.55

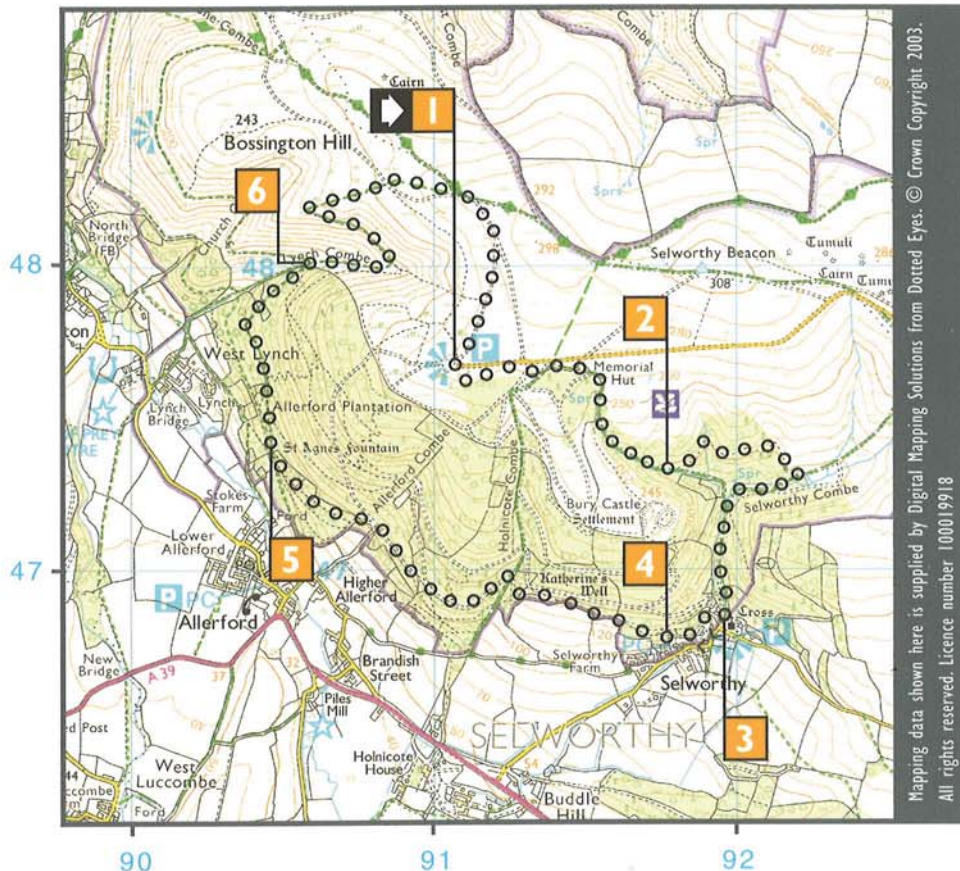
The map section below can be found on the Ordnance Survey Explorer Map OL9.

The area is also covered by the Ordnance Survey Landranger Map 181.

 1 Kilometre

 1 Mile


EXMOOR NATIONAL PARK



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-  4 miles (6.5 kilometres).
-  2 hours.
-  Start Point: Selworthy Beacon car park.
-  Moderate. Paths are mostly well maintained, signposted and easy going but many criss-cross and require careful navigation.
-  Weekly buses run from Minehead to the start in summer or you can start at Selworthy, half a mile from the Minehead to Porlock bus route.
-  Teas at Selworthy Green in season.
-  WC At Selworthy Green.
-  On a lead.

WALK DIRECTIONS

 Most of the land covered by this route is owned and managed by the National Trust, which has an information centre at Selworthy Green. Parts of the route are not on Public Rights of Way but permissive paths provided by the Trust. The walk starts the car park at the end of the scenic drive across North Hill and Selworthy Beacon from Minehead.

1 From the car park at the end of Hill Road head along a gravelled path towards the nearest trees. This is the start of the Easy Access Trail leading through the trees to the Wind and Weather Hut. Carry on beyond the hut for a short distance before joining the broad track heading from the road down the combe leading to Selworthy.

2 Part way down, by a tree trunk bent across the track, take a path on the left towards Lady Acland's Hut. Turn right at a junction along this path. From Lady Acland's Hut follow the path down into the combe below. From here a broader path leads down and across a combe bottom before joining the main track down to Selworthy.

3 At **Selworthy Green** follow the tarmac path down the Green past the combined Westbourne and Bow Cottages. Here a path leads to the right over a footbridge and into woodland.

4 A short distance ahead the path turns left onto a track. After about a hundred metres the route then turns left again onto another path running along the woodland edge. Turn

left at the path fork at **Catherine's Well** and follow the signs towards Bossington. Pass over two tracks heading downhill from the right. At the next path junction turn left along the branch signposted to Bossington and St Agnes' Fountain, ignoring the 'Sleigh Track' climbing uphill on the right afterwards.

5 At St Agnes' Fountain there is a junction of six paths. Take the rising path on the right signposted as the higher path to Hurlstone Point. This is followed uphill for some distance as it gradually reduces from a track to path. Ignore all side turnings from this route. At the end of the path a gate leads to Lynch Combe and a path junction.

6 From here a right turn along the bridleway towards Minehead, climbing steeply up the combe. After most trees have been left behind, the path reaches a junction close to a wooden seat. Here the route turns left, climbing less steeply across a bracken-covered hillside. On reaching the gorse-covered ridge, there is a sharp right turn and continuing gentle climb.

7 On gaining the heathland top, right turns at four track junctions in succession lead back to the car park.

